

REMARKS

Claims 52-77 are pending in the present application. The amendments in the response to the final office action mailed July 27, 2004, were not entered by the Examiner since the amendments were deemed to raise new issues for consideration. In the Final Office Action mailed June 21, 2004, and Advisory Action mailed October 6, 2004, claims 55-57, 60 and 61 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, claims 54 and 58 were rejected, claims 52, 53, 65-73, 76 and 77 were allowed, and claims 59, 62-64, 74 and 75 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

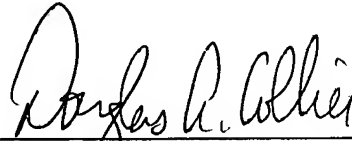
In this response, claim 54 has been amended and claim 74 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 52-73 and 75-77 is respectfully solicited. The amendments do not raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner, and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim 54 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,123,926 to Pisharodi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,597 to Beyar et al. Amended claim 54 incorporates the features of allowable claim 74, and is therefore also allowable. It is noted that this amendment is presented to advance prosecution of the present application, and is not made in acquiescence in any rejection made with respect to the claims. Applicants' reserve the right to present arguments regarding the rejection of claims 54 and 58 in this application or in any continuing application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, claims 52-73 and 75-77 are in

condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for the present application is hereby solicited. The Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues with regard to the present application.

Respectfully submitted:



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